

AWM4

**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/21/18

Title: 4th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/21/18

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

4th Bn. A.I.F.

492

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HALLOY- les- PERNOIS	1/8/1916		Continued work of training & reorganisation. Major Gen. H. B. Walker, Div. Commander, inspected & addressed reinforcements which arrived for 1 st Imp. Bde. since Pozières action. Attachment of officers at present with 4 th Bn. is as follows (Temporary): C.O. - Lt. Col. J. G. Mackay; Sen. Major - Major B. V. Stacy; Adjutant - Capt. H. A. Mann; Qr. Mr. Lieut. (Hon.) W. A. Symington; T.O. - Lieut. L. M. Lane; Bomb Platoon - Lieut. C. M. Poilean; L. M. G. S. - 2/Lieut. F. W. Newth; A Co - MAJOR D. R. Brown, 2/Lt. Y. R. McKeown, 2/Lt. D. B. Grey; B Co. Capt. W. T. McDonall, Capt. H. V. Yould, 2/Lt. J. Y. Melville; C Co. - Capt. R. M. J. Matthews, Lieut. Y. H. Pugh, 2/Lt. J. Johnston; D Co. - Capt. J. B. Osborne, Lieut. R. M. Isaacs, Lieut. A. L. Mark; M.O. - Capt. R. Taylor, A.A.M.C.; Chaplain - Capt. W. McKenzie. Our late Medical Officer, Capt. W. J. Stack was transferred to 1 st Field Ambulance on 31/7/1916.	
	2/8/16		Forwarded to Brigade & obtained receipt original copy of War Diary for period July 1-31 (inclusive), 1916. Conference Company Commanders at 1615.	
	3/8/16		2/Lieut. J. Johnstone transferred to 46 th Bn. In exchange from 12 th Bde. we get back to Serjt. McMahon 45 th Bn. Received 21 reinforcements including 12 old hands. Heard unofficially today that Lieut. M. R. Dowling had died of wounds.	
	4/8/16		Lieut. Y. H. Pugh & 4 other ranks to Lewis Machine Gun School.	
	5/8/16		Today received 4 new L.M.Guns. This brings our total to 8 serviceable guns. Establishment of M. Gunners henceforth to be - H.Q. 1 officer, 1 serjt, 1 batman & 2 gun detachments (2 n.c.o.'s & 24 men to operate 4 guns); per Coy 1 gun detachment (1 n.c.o & 12 men) total 1 officer, 80 other ranks. In afternoon Bn. sports held 11 events for which sum of 225 francs was given from Regimental Funds as prize money. In evening a concert organised by Chaplain at which prizes were presented.	

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4th Bn., A.I.F.

492

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
HALLOY	5.8.16		Recent casualties July 22-27 as revised to date are -																									
			<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Killed</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Died of Wounds</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Wounded</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Missing</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Total</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Officers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">—</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">—</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Other ranks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">76</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">322</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">422</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">77</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">332</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">434</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Killed</u>	<u>Died of Wounds</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Total</u>	Officers	2	—	10	—	12	Other ranks	76	7	322	18	422		77	7	332	18	434	
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		77	7	332	18	434																						
				Total Brigade casualties about 50 officers, 1950 other ranks.																								
				Casualties amongst N.C.O.'s (including Lt. Cpl.) - 72.																								
	6.8.16			Church parade 0930. Bombers & Lewis M. Gunners paraded morning & afternoon. Remainder bathed & were fitted out with new clothing & requirements. Court martial trials of No 1507A Pte. Brown for self inflicted wound; Lt/Cpl. Lavender for desertion. All blankets rolled in bundles of 25 & dumped under guard at No. 38 house on E side of Halloy Church.																								
				Present strength of 4 th Bn is as follows :- H.Q., Transport & Special Platoons - officers 7, other ranks 137; A Co. - 3 & 121; B Co. 3 & 109; C Co 3 & 115; D Co. 3 & 123; A.M.C. (attached) 1 & 5; total 20 officers, 610 other ranks. In addition there is Chaplain 1 & on command 1 officer & 34 other ranks. Today appointments notified of 9 new officers for 4 th Bn. viz -																								
			2/Lts. N. Power & B. Costin & S. Allen, R. L. Turnbull, S. F. Freeman, S. H. Dutton, M. R. Shelley, L. L. Agnew, R. B. Bennett; all dated 5/8/1916.																									
7.8.16			Training & reorganisation proceed.																									
8.8.16			Lecture on use of Smoke & Liquid fire for Officers at BERTEAUCOURT - LES - DAMES.																									
9.8.16			Marched from HALLOY to LA VICOIGNE (Chateau) to same bivouac area as before. Started 0907, arrived about 1200 many halts on way & very dusty owing to other troops passing viz. 5 th Aust. Inf. Bde. 5 th M.G. Co. Brigade of Artillery, A.S.C. Co. Also some British troops. Out strength 591 other ranks. In afternoon about 40 men volunteered to assist in gathering in crops.																									
10.8.16			Marched at 0900 from LA VICOIGNE - FME. ROSEL - VAL DE MAISON - HÉRISSART. Arrived 11.30 at latter place; good billets. Informed by Brigadier British losses on Somme to date 120,000.																									
HÉRISSART	11.8.16		Demonstration at 1100 of smoke bombs & candles & barrage using same made by Stokes mortars. Gen. de L. P. Long present. In afternoon demonstration by 3 rd Bn. of signalling from trenches to aeroplane (Capt. Casey G.S.O.3) by means of 3 flares (red), panels, water-proof sheets, discs. Maj. Gen. W. B. Walker inspected & addressed newly appointed officers in 1 st Inf. Bde.																									
	12.8.16		Received 101 reinforcements. These include some old men from Gallipoli & Egypt as well as some wounded in France. Strength now is 26 officers 688 other ranks. Sent in papers for commission Sgt. Hill who returned with these reinforcements. Brigadier & C.O.'s 3 rd & 4 th Bns. rode to Army Corps H.Q. at CONTAY to see relief map of MOUQUET FARM.																									

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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4th Bn. A.I.F.

492

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HÉRISSART	13.8.16		Brigade Church Parade 09.30. Lieut. Gen. Sir W. R. Birdwood present & presented ribbons to those who had recently been decorated. Recipients of 4 th Bn. who were present were - Capt. W. McKeuzie, Chaplain, Military Cross; Sergt. Gustin & Pte. Cohen, Military Medals. 2/Lt. Agnew left for School of Instruction.	
	14.8.16		Marched at 1410 Hérisart to VADENCOURT WOOD. Arrived about 1550 26 officers 688 other ranks. Sent Cpl. Newsom (L.M.G.S.) & Cpl. Hawkins (A.S.C.) to attend Officers Cadet School, England. Capt. H.V. Gould transferred to Engineers. Officers are now posted - H.Q. unchanged except that 2/Lt. F.W. Newth is Signalling Officer & 2/Lt. N. Wray is Transport Officer. 2/Lt. J. H. Pugh is L.M.G. Officer; A Co. Major D. R. Brown Lt. G.R. McKeown 2/Lt. D. B. Grey, 2/Lt. R. L. Turnbull; B Co. Capt. W. J. Mc Donald 2/Lt. J. Y. Melville 2/Lt. E. B. Costin 2/Lt. L. L. Agnew, C Co. - Capt. R. M. J. Matthews Lieut. L. N. Lane 2/Lt. S. H. Dutton 2/Lt. R. B. Bennett 2/Lt. F. Mc Mahon; D Co. - Capt. J. B. Osborne Lieut. D. W. Isaacs 2/Lt. A. D. Hart 2/Lt. A. S. Allen 2/Lt. M. R. Shelley. Only 20 officers to be taken into action. Of the above 25 the following will remain Senior Major, Quartermaster, Transport Officer Lieut. Isaacs & 2/Lt. Dutton. Marched at 0800 Vadencourt - Warley - north of Henencourt & Millencourt to Albert (Brickfields) arrived 1120. At 1415 received a message to proceed to 13 th Bde. A.I.F. thence to 50 th Bn. & arrange relief of latter by 2 coys. (A & B), 4 Lewis Guns, 1/2 Signallers & 1/2 Bomb Platoon. Left orders for this party under Major Brown to pass road junction at 4A BOISELLE at 1700 & proceeded to make arrangements. Relief complete at 22.30. A Co is on right of road running N to MOUQUET FARM with one platoon B Co to left of this road. B Co. less 1 platoon is at post 81 near culvert over "sunken road" & 50 yards each side of road. About 300 yds. separate B Co from its fourth platoon. Rainy night & ground very slippery.	
POZIERES - MOUQUET FME.	16.8.16		Remainder of Bn. under Major Stacy marched in early morning from Sausage Valley & relieved 51 st Bn. Relief complete at 0600. Dispositions now from right to left D, C, A & B (as before). Each company has 2 Lewis Guns & 1 was found by B Co evidently left by 50 th Bn. 1 other is at H.Q. & was taken over from 50 th Bn. Bn. H.Q. in old German dug out just W of Pozieres Cemetery & about 800 yds. in rear of firing line. No British troops in trenches on our left for 500 yds. This a very vulnerable point & an enemy advance on a wide front would walk through unmolested to Pozieres. On our right 3 rd Bn. (A.I.F.) are in direct contact with us.	

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4th Bn. A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOUQUET FARM	16.8.16	(Contn.)	<p>Before we took over from 51st Bn. their front was patrolled by 2/Lt. Mc Mahon & 6 men. During today casualties were fairly heavy particularly amongst officers - Capt. McDonald killed. Capt. Osborne, Lt. Lane & 2/Lt. Mc Mahon, Hart & Bennett wounded. Orders received to make advance N by bombing attacks at 1900. Heavy enemy bombardment of front line & rear communication trenches commenced at 1800 & delayed our preparations. At C.O.'s conference with Company Commanders in front line Capt Osborne & Lt. Lane were wounded by a shell & rest of party scratched & covered with dust. At 1900 small parties of enemy seen advancing over open & attack appeared likely. Conference abandoned & Coy. Commanders sent immediately to their companies. At 2100 enemy attacked on front of 50 yds. in about 8 successive waves against No 13 platoon. Driven off by Bomb Platoon with bombs also rapid fire & Lewis gun. He came within 20 yds. of trench. For rest of night enemy seen moving on front but no further attack.</p>	
	17.8.16		<p>Counted in front of No 13 Platoon 14 enemy dead. Ground all scored with shell holes which obscure view so possibly some dead not seen. Quiet day, all wounded now evacuated including 13 left by 50th Bn. in our lines. In early morning Brigadier & Bde. Major visited our Bn H.Q. Lieuts Isaacs & Dutton arrived & rejoined Coy. likewise N.C.O.'s of B, C & D from the 15th left in rear. Casualties now more than 100. Before noon today A Co. of 3rd Bn. relieved our D Co & room made by C & D Co's moving to left. At night A Co moved to W side of MOUQUET FARM road & C & D Co's then spread over the line originally occupied by A, C & D. A Co dug itself in on the new line & platoon of B Co occupied QUARRY. Patrols went forward to R 33 B 55 & also within 100 yds. of Mouquet Farm. This morning & evening visited by outbatteries from 4th Oxford & Bucks. Sent letter to their C.O. re our left flank, also message to Bde. re dangers of this position. Today is 2nd Anniversary of formation of 4th Bn. 17th August 1914.</p>	
	18.8.16		<p>Last night about 2000 Capt. Matthews wounded in face & evacuated about 1200 today. Casualties to 1000 today are killed - officers 1, others 25; wounded - officers 6, others 145; missing 5. Total 182. Today our position was visited by officers of 3rd Bde. A.I.F. Orders received from Bde. to attack tonight & Bn. order as attached was issued to all Companies.</p>	

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4th Bn. A.I.F.

492

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOUQUET FARM	18.8.16	(contin.)	<p>About 2000 enemy commenced bombardment our lines & communications, causing many casualties, as well as interfering with supply of bombs & preparations for our advance. Received reinforcement D Co 2nd Bn. (Major Rowlands) & 102 others together with 1 Lewis gun. Later received 1 officer & 50 others 2nd Bn. & 1 Vickers Gun. At 2115 C Co. had advanced & A Co was in strong point R 33855 but no Engineers had arrived. Latter arrived at 22.30 & proceeded to dig. Major Brown had difficulty in holding back enemy bombers & supply of bombs only barely sufficient for needs could be got to him. Lewis gun of 2nd Bn. also another from post 81 & the Vickers gun were sent him. At 0600 next morning all quiet & A Co dug in. On right bombers could make no headway & 3rd Bn. did not move. 2/Lt. Turnbull wounded also 2/Lt. G. Ho. Hill (commission dated 16/8/16)</p>	
	19.8.16		<p>Quiet day & men rested after efforts last night. Arrangements made for relief of 4th Bn. as follows - 2 Coys 12th Bn. to relieve D & C Coys, 2 Coys. 9th Bn. to relieve A & B Coys 9th Bn. to take 4th Bn. H.Q. & relieve Signallers at "Gibraltar". Relief commenced about 1800 in spite of enemy's barrage & last of our companies passed Bn. H.Q. at 2315. After relieving companies had taken over our men marched in small parties of not more than 10 with considerable intervals & proceeded to Albert via BAPAYME - ALBERT Road. About 1/2 mile N of Albert the companies assembled & marched to billets in RUE D'AVEBUY arriving about 0200 on morning of 20th. 1 Coy. 2nd Bn. marched at 1900 via 4th Avenue to TARA HILLS. Up to 1200 today our casualties were - killed - Officers 1, others 40; wounded - officers 8, others 234; missing 5; total 288</p>	
ALBERT	20.8.16		<p>Rested & cleaned up in billets in Albert.</p>	
	21.8.16		<p>Marched at 0825 Albert - Bouzincourt - Senlis - Warley. Arrived about 11.30. Easy march & secured good billets. Lt. R. A. Macalpine rejoined Bn. from Brigade Staff duties. Lt. Gen. Birdwood & Brigadier visited us this afternoon. Visited wounded in Warley Hospital.</p>	

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4th Bn.

492

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARLOY	22.8.16		<p>Strength - officers 18 other ranks 420</p> <p>Marched at 0848 Warloy - Contay - Hérisson - Fme. Rosel - La Vicogne. Arrived 1500 after halt of 1 hour 45 mins. for lunch. Bivouac at Chateau. Promulgated Sentence of Court Martial in case of L/Cpl. Lavender G. viz - "To suffer death by being shot". Sentence commuted to 15 years Penal Servitude by General Haig. This sentence is now being undergone.</p> <p>2/Lt. D. B. Grey & 6 other ranks reported for Lewis M. G. School at Val de Maison.</p>	
LA VICOÛNE	23.8.16		<p>Forwarded to Brigade list of recommendations for honours & awards in fighting before MOUQUET FARM August 15-19 inclusive. At 1500 parade of 1st Inf. Bde. at which Gen. Sir W. Birdwood presented ribbon for some additional honours won at Pozières & also met newly appointed officers. Recipients in 4th Bn. Lt. C. H. Poileau Military Cross (Lt. Cooke dit. Cross & Serjt. Baxter, D.C.M. absent wounded). Recent casualties now found to be officers 9 others 299; total 308.</p> <p>A few men return daily from rest stations. Returned to D.A.D.O.S. a Lewis Machine Gun complete with 64 magazines for transmission to 4th Division. We now have 7 guns only.</p>	
	24.8.16		<p>Lts. Macalpine & McKeown sent to Division for entraining duties. Marched at 1115 LA VICOÛNE - CANDAS - LONGUEVILLETTE. Halted 70 mins. for lunch & arrived 1500. Good billets just vacated by Grenadier Guards. Marching in state 15 officers 421 others. Brigade H.Q. at GÉZAINCOURT.</p>	
LONGUEVILLETTE	25.8.16		<p>Conference by Commanders at 0900. Short parade at 0930 then holiday & sports to commemorate 2nd Anniversary of Formation of 4th Battalion on 17/8/1914. Contribution from Regimental Funds 270 francs supplemented by subscriptions from officers to provide prizes for sports beer & cake.</p>	
	26.8.16		<p>At 0400 bulk of Transport Section marched to DOULLENS & entrained. At 0500 Mess Cart & Cookers followed. At 0555 remainder Bn. marched DOULLENS via GÉZAINCOURT - arrived 0730 & entrained 1 section No 1 M.G. Co. & part transport on same train. Rejoined at station 36 men ea hospital. Train left 0904. Halted Hazebrouck 1330 - 1410. Detrained HOPOUTRE near POPERINGE at 1515.</p>	
HOPOUTRE	27.8.16		<p>Marched to hut camp Map 28 G 23 A 7.7 arrived about 1730; 1 blanket per man distributed remainder remainder, also packs of casualties stored by Q.M. Latter reports that blankets although taken away for washing on 6/8/16 have not been touched.</p> <p>Church service 0930. Brigadier attended. Lt. R. A. Macalpine returned to Bn. from Divisional entraining duties.</p>	

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4th Bn.

VOL VI

402

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																										
HOPOUTRE BUSSEBOOM	28.8.16		<p>Training + reorganisation of Bn. Posting of officers - C.O. Sen. Major Adjut. Qn. Mr. T.O. R.M.O. Chaplain as before; Sig. + Lewis N.Y.O. 2/Lt. F.W. Newth, Bomb Platoon 2/Lt. M.R. Shelley; A Co. - Major D.R. Brown, Lt. R.Y. McKeown, 2/Lt. D.B. Grey; B Co. - Lieut. Y.H. Pugh, 2/Lt. J.Y. Melville, 2/Lt. E.B. Costin; C Co. - Lieut. C.M. Poileau, Lt. R.A. Macalpine, 2/Lt. S.H. Dutton; D Co. Lieut. D.W. Isaacs, 2/Lt. A.S. Allen. Today Lt. McKeown returned to Bn. from Divisional entraining duties. Conference C.O.'s at Bde. H.Q. 1700. Also present Div. Gen. Officer + D.A.A. + Q.M.G. Preliminary orders for relief by night Sept. 1/2 of 10th Bde. 4th British Division News today of declaration war Italy v. Germany also Rumania v. Austria. Conference Company Commanders 2000. Ref reference this Camp. (Scottish Lines) sheet 28 G 23 APP.</p>																											
	29.8.16		<p>Today visited Bde. H.Q. + H.Q. left front line Bn. in the sector held by 10th Bde. No accommodation available for left support Bn. Arranged for billets with Town Major, YPRES. One officer + 2 n.c.o.'s per company attended gas school. Heavy rain in afternoon prevented practical work. Huts water tight. Total casualties to date in recent fighting Aug. 15/19</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">K</td> <td style="text-align: center;">D of W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">Officers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td rowspan="3" style="padding-left: 20px;">Total casualties to n.c.o.'s (including Lt/Cpl.) - 54</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">Other Ranks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">56</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">232</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">298</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black;">57</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black;">240</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black;">307</td> </tr> </table>		K	D of W	W	M	Total		Officers	1	1	8	-	9	Total casualties to n.c.o.'s (including Lt/Cpl.) - 54	Other Ranks	56	2	232	8	298		57	2	240	8	307	
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30.8.16			<p>Adjutant + Quartermaster rode to Ypres to arrange details of billets. Signal Sergh + 2 signallers went to forward Bde. H.Q. Too wet for parades; work carried out in huts. Lt/Cpl. Leitch D. nominated for Officers Cadet School commencing Sept. 5 at Oxford or Cambridge. Today Corp. Newsom + Hawkins returned from Etaples. These n.c.o.'s were called for sudden by on 14/8/16 to attend Officers Cadet Course in England. They have been kept hanging about there since + are now returned. Likewise officers + n.c.o.'s belonging to this Bn. are kept in England doing base work so relieve others though well fitted to return to unit. In this way the fighting units are brought down in efficiency, loafers in England are encouraged, the period of the war is lengthened + the loss of life increased. Still the muddle goes on, the newspapers shriek + the glorious Army wages its war of money + material + little fight.</p>																											
31.8.16			<p>Fine day. Conference Company Commanders 11.15. Battalion drill in afternoon.</p>																											

8

4th Battalion Operation Order.
18/8/1916.

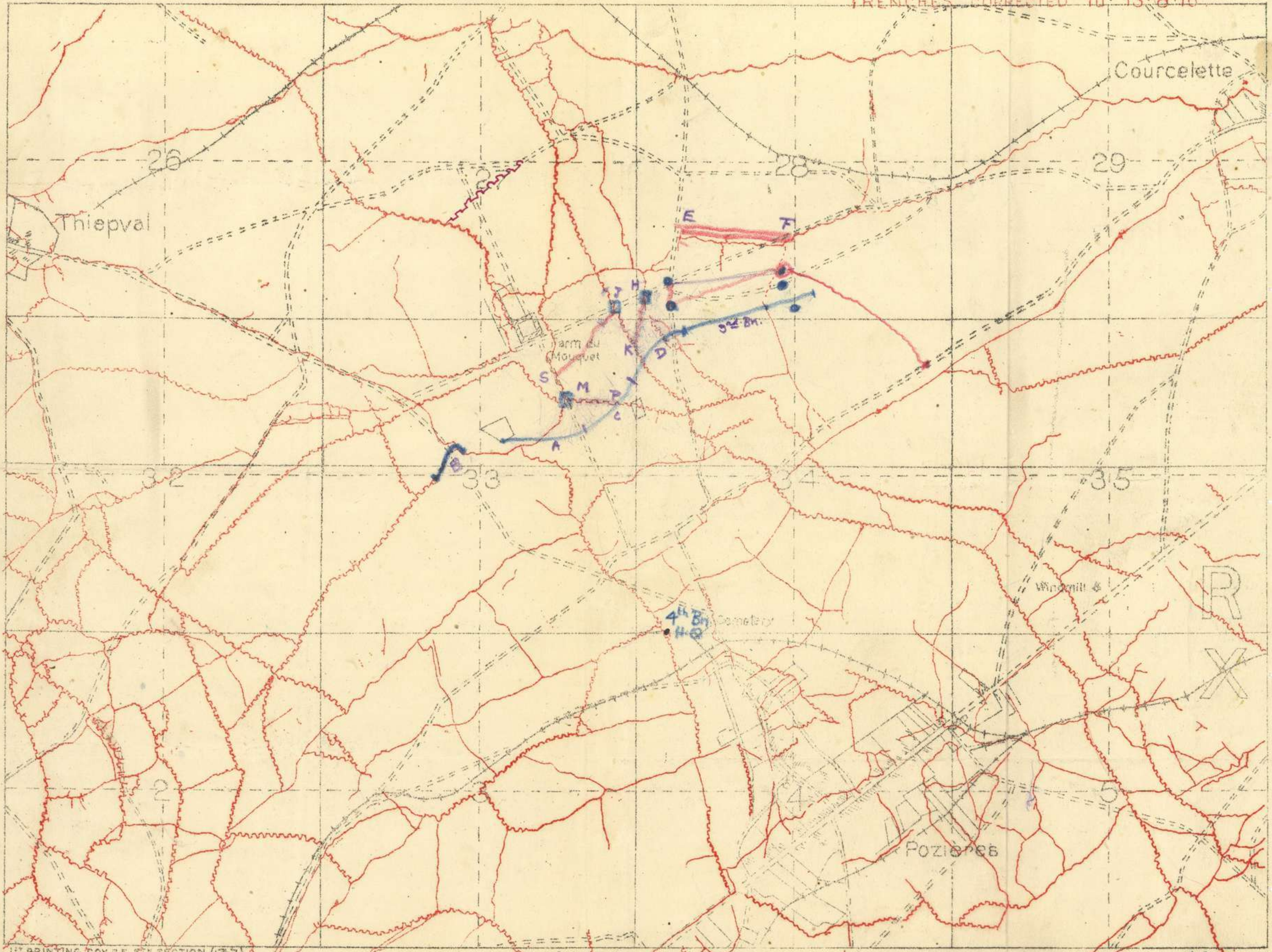
- 1) On accompanying sketch our firing line is marked in blue and the approximate company fronts are shown. 3rd Battalion is on our right, Enemy occupies trenches at MOUQUET FARM. His main line is said to be that marked E.F. on sketch.
- 2) Today before dark (Zero to be notified later) our artillery will bombard enemy trenches. On burage lifting strong patrols will go forward and occupy points marked H. J. M.
- 3) D'boy and Bombing Platoons will advance to point K and then bomb along to points H and J which will be held. Trenches JK and HK and from K and H respectively back to present fire trench will be consolidated and lightly occupied. D'boy Lewis Machine Guns will cooperate keeping down heads in trenches SJ, JK, KH.
- 4) "H" boy will move forward to point M and occupy it, at the same time straightening out line from M to QUARRY.
- 5) "G" boy will occupy trench P.M. G'boy Lewis machine Guns to bring fire to bear on trench SJ taking on Enemy Machine Guns and keeping heads down.
- 6) B'boy Lewis machine Guns and No. 1 M. G. boy guns will cooperate if opportunity offers.
- 7) 3rd Bn. will advance in similar fashion and occupy points marked on map by ~~red~~^{blue} dots.
- 8) Full advantage is to be taken of remaining daylight and doubtful points cleared up by patrols and other reconnaissance. Preliminary steps to fix new alignment should also be taken.
- 9) Extra tools and sand bags are being forwarded at once. Other requirements should be indented for immediately.

(Signed)

W. A. Mann Capt.
Adjutant 4th Batta.

R. 26. - X. 5.

TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 13.8.16



THE PRINTING COY. RE SECTION. (177)

SCALE. 1:10,000

14.8.16.